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THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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DPA 591 (R-8-74)

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Medical Assistance program provides for payment of allowable medical care received by 1) public aid recipients, and 2) certain other individuals and families who do not need assistance to meet their general living costs but who do require help in meeting the cost of medical bills.

The program, financed jointly by the state of Illinois and the federal government, is administered by the Illinois Department of Public Aid through its county departments located in each of the state's 102 counties.

WHERE TO APPLY

Persons receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) are eligible for medical services; consequently they are not required to apply for Medical Assistance. Aged, blind, or disabled persons who are receiving state supplementation to federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments are also eligible for Medical Assistance and are not required to apply.

Other persons who need assistance to meet the cost of current medical care may make application for Medical Assistance at the public aid office in the county of residence. If need for Medical Assistance occurs while hospitalized, application for this assistance may be made while in the hospital.

If the person asking for assistance is unable to complete the application, it may be made in his behalf by a relative or other person who has sufficient knowledge of the applicant's circumstances to furnish information.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Medical Services. The Medical Assistance program is designed to provide essential medical services required by the applicant's condition due to illness, infirmity, or disability when such medical care is recommended by a

qualified practitioner, and when the necessary care is not available to the individual from any other source.

The medical services and supplies for which payment can be provided are: in-patient and out-patient hospital services; clinic care; physical rehabilitation services; laboratory and x-ray services; family planning services; nursing care in the home; skilled nursing home care; home health care services; special duty nursing care for a hospital patient; care in intermediate care facilities; physicians' services in the office, patient's home, hospital, nursing home, or other appropriate place; psychiatric services; early and periodic screening for diagnosis and treatment of children; dental care; eye care; podiatry services; chiropractic services; physical therapy, occupational therapy; speech therapy, and audiology by or supervised by a qualified therapist; drugs, medical supplies, sickroom needs, appliances and prosthetic devices.

Funeral and Burial Expenses. Funeral and burial expenses are allowable for otherwise self-supporting persons who are receiving services under the Medical Assistance program in accordance with the department's payment standards when 1) the deceased was an applicant or a recipient of medical services at the time of death, 2) the estate is insufficient to pay the cost of funeral and burial, and 3) no legally responsible relatives are able to pay the costs.

Food Stamps. Persons and families receiving Medical Assistance (only) may also be eligible to purchase food stamps. They should consult the local county department of public aid.

Social Services. Applicants and recipients of Medical Assistance are eligible for information, referral and follow-up services; for help with plans when alternate care arrangements are needed when leaving a state hospital; and for a range of social services provided by other state agencies.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Persons who have sufficient income and assets to cover their general living expenses but who need financial assistance to pay their medical expenses will qualify for Medical Assistance if they meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

Financial Eligibility. Individuals or families may be eligible for Medical Assistance (only) when the amount of their resources considered available to meet medical needs will not meet the cost of allowable medical care.

In determining an applicant's or recipient's eligibility for Medical Assistance (only), resources considered available to meet medical needs are 1) non-exempt income available over a six-month period in excess of the department's standards, 2) non-exempt liquid assets exceeding the department's standards, and 3) available contributions from responsible relatives.

Persons legally responsible for support of needy relatives are spouse for spouse and parents for the support of children under age 21.

Income. Income and other money resources available to the applicant or recipient will be considered for the six-month period for which the person's eligibility is being determined for medical assistance.

The established six-month period of eligibility, determined for each applicant, begins with the month when medical service is given, provided the applicant meets all eligibility requirements. Assistance may be granted up to three months prior to application if necessary.

In determining eligibility and the extent of need for Medical Assistance (only), the individual's or family's income considered is the non-exempt income available for the six-month period. A portion of income may be exempt

from consideration in determining eligibility for Medical Assistance (only) in accordance with income exemption policies. Six months non-exempt income in excess of the medical assistance standard is considered available for payment toward medical care costs. In addition a premium may be required.

Assets. Assets exempt from consideration in determining the eligibility of applicants for Medical Assistance are: homestead property, clothing and personal effects, household furnishings, business or farming equipment essential to produce income, motor vehicle(s), cemetery lot, certain group life insurance and other life insurance which has a face value of no more than $1,000.

Also exempt are the cash value of non-homestead property, stocks, bonds, savings accounts, and cash, provided the total value of any or all the items does not exceed $400 for one person, $200 for the second dependent family member, and $100 for each additional family member. The value of assets exceeding these amounts is considered available to apply toward medical expenses.

Summary of Financial Eligibility. An applicant's or recipient's non-exempt income (including available contributions from responsible relatives) and non-exempt assets over an established six-month period are considered in the determination of financial eligibility for Medical Assistance. A person or family having non-exempt income and assets in excess of the income and assets standards noted above may still be eligible if medical care costs exceed the surplus resources available to them.

Residence. Applicants for the Medical Assistance program must be living in Illinois with the intent to remain and must be citizens of the U. S. or have a legal alien status. Temporary absence from the state does not disqualify an applicant if he meets all other eligibility requirements.

Other Eligibility Factors. With the exception of the financial eligibility requirements, all other eligibility factors are the same as those in effect for AFDC. Families may be eligible for the Medical Assistance program if:

1) There are one or more children under the age of 21 in the family group;
2) The children are deprived of parental support or care by the death, physical or mental incapacity, full or partial unemployment, or continued absence for such reasons as unmarried parenthood, divorce, separation, imprisonment, or military service of either parent; and
3) The children are living with an adult who is their parent or other close relative such as an adoptive father or mother, grandmother, grandfather, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, or any other relative approved by the department.

A person without young children at home may be eligible for Medical Assistance, if the person is:

65 years of age or over; or blind to the extent that even with glasses he is unable to perform ordinary duties; or disabled--either physically or mentally--to the extent that he is unable to work at an occupation for which he is suited.

If the person applying for Medical Assistance is receiving cash assistance from the federal program of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or agrees to apply for and is approved to receive SSI, this will be accepted as evidence that he is either aged, blind, or disabled. If the person applying does not receive SSI and does not wish to apply for SSI, then that person's age, blindness, disability, or incapacity must be established by the Department of Public Aid --including medical examination as appropriate.

Public Institutions. Needy persons 65 and over who are living in public institutions for the treatment of mental illness or tuberculosis

are eligible for Medical Assistance. Inmates of penal or correctional institutions are ineligible. Persons about to be released from an institution may apply for Medical Assistance for services needed after release.

Persons discharged from a mental health facility solely for the purpose of receiving medical care in a general hospital, and who then return to the mental health facility may be eligible for Medical Assistance while in the general hospital.

Transfer of Property. A person who has transferred either real or personal property within five years of the date of application for Medical Assistance is ineligible for assistance if the transfer was made for the purpose of qualifying for or increasing the need for assistance.

Determination of Eligibility. Applicants for Medical Assistance will be expected to provide information needed to determine their eligibility. The applicant will be notified of the decision within 30 days of the date of application (60 days if eligibility is based on disability).

A redetermination of eligibility is made every six months or any time within the six-month period if information is received indicating a change in the recipient's circumstances which may affect his eligibility.

PAYMENT PROVISIONS

The department will make payments for medical services provided through the Medical Assistance program to the person or institution which provides the medical service. Payments will cover only the allowable medical expenses which the eligible individual or family cannot meet from his available resources as computed in accordance with the department's standards, including such resources as medical, surgical, or other health insurance.

RIGHTS OF APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

Right to Apply. Any person who believes he may be eligible for medical services has the right to apply under the Medical Assistance program.

Choice of Vendors. Persons receiving Medical Assistance are entitled to a free choice of doctors, hospitals, or other providers of medical services which meet the requirements of and comply with the rules and regulations of the department.

Advance Notice. Persons receiving Medical Assistance will be given 10 days' advance notice in writing before a county department acts to suspend or cancel their assistance. They will also be given the opportunity for an informal conference with a county department representative (within the 10-day period) to discuss the reasons for the proposed change. This is not the same as an appeal, nor does it prevent a recipient from appealing after such a conference.

Right of Appeal. An applicant or recipient may make his appeal orally or in writing to the local county department of public aid or to the Illinois Department of Public Aid within 60 days. The county department will provide a form which he may use in making his appeal and will provide information about community legal services that may be available to him. Legal fees are not paid by the department. If he is appealing a proposed suspension or cancellation of assistance and his appeal is filed within the 10-day advance notice period, his assistance may be continued during the hearing process if the appeal is based on question of fact or judgment. Assistance is not continued if the department determines that the appeal is based on an issue of law or policy, or if the appeal is not filed within the 10-day period.

The hearing, conducted by a state hearing officer, is without cost to the appellant and is held in his county of residence. The county department will provide for payment of unusual expenses (transportation, child care) that might prevent an appellant's attendance at his hearing and for necessary transportation for the appellant's witnesses and representatives.

At the hearing the appellant will have the opportunity to present his case himself or have it presented by his legal counsel or someone acting in a representative capacity, to introduce evidence and witnesses in his behalf, and to examine before and during the hearing

any material the county department plans to introduce as evidence.

Unless the appellant has requested a delay, the department will notify him by letter of its decision on his appeal within 60 days after the appeal is filed.

For complete details, see brochure DPA 377, *The Right to Appeal and to Receive a Fair Hearing.*

CIVIL RIGHTS. The Illinois Department of Public Aid administers all programs under its jurisdiction in conformance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare regulations defining state responsibilities under that Act.

Therefore, the Department of Public Aid does not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, on the ground of race, color, or national origin deny any individual, aid, care, services, or other benefits provided under the programs; differentiate in the kind of aid, care, services, or other benefits provided, or in the manner in which they are provided, subject an individual to segregation or separate treatment in any manner related to receipt of aid, care, services, or other benefits; restrict any person from having the same advantages and privileges of all others in receiving them; treat an individual differently than others in determining eligibility or other requirements to qualify for aid, care, services, or other benefits; deny or offer any person an opportunity different from that offered others. Persons wishing to complain of alleged discriminatory conditions or practices by the Department of Public Aid, or other agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals, may state their complaint in a letter or on Form DPA 185, obtained at the county department of public aid office. The complaint may be sent to the county department or to the Illinois Department of of Public Aid, Supervisor of Inquiries, 618 East Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois 62762, or to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 330 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20201.

The Department of Public Aid will investigate all complaints and take corrective action when indicated by the findings. The director of the department will review the action taken, and the complainant will be informed in writing of the disposition of the complaint. Decisions may be appealed.

For complete details, see brochure DPA 592, *Public Aid and Civil Rights.*

Protection of Personal Information. By law the contents of department records pertaining to applicants and recipients may not be disclosed except for the purpose of administering the program.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

Applicants must report accurately all income and resources and other facts which have a bearing on their eligibility for assistance. Recipients must report immediately any change in circumstances which may affect their eligibility or the amount of the aid given.

By law, penalties are provided for falsifying or withholding information which may affect eligibility.

ESTATE CLAIMS

Claims will be made against estates to recover the amount paid for medical services in behalf of recipients of the Medical Assistance program if the recipient was 65 years of age or over at the time he received the medical assistance, but only after the death of the surviving spouse and only when there is no surviving child who is under 21 or who is blind or permanently and totally disabled.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC AID

ADAMS: 640½ Hampshire Street, Quincy 62301
ALEXANDER: 220 Sixth Street, Cairo 62914
BOND: 317 West Oak Street, Greenville 62246
BOONE: 306 Buchanan, Belvidere 61008
BROWN: 223 West South Street, Mt. Sterling 62353
BUREAU: 24 East Marion Street, Princeton 61356
CALHOUN: 312 South County Road, Hardin 62047
CARROLL: Junction Highway 78 and 88, Mt. Carroll 61053
CASS: 300 East Second Street, Beardstown 62618

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CHAMPAIGN: 405 South State Street, Champaign 61820
CHRISTIAN: 305 South Webster Street, Taylorville 62568
CLARK: 625 Archer Avenue, Marshall 62441
CLAY: Highway 45 and Chestnut Street, Louisville 62858
CLINTON: Rt. 127 North & Kane St., RFD #1, Carlyle 62231
COLES: 119 West State Street, Charleston 61920
COOK: Jane Addams Houses, 1410 W. 14th St., Apt. 105 60608
Altgeld Gardens, 941 East 132nd Street 60627
Auburn Park, 659 W. 79th St., 60620
Cabrini Homes, 419 West Oak Street 60610
Englewood Office, 6125 So. Halsted Street 60621
Garfield Office, 4657 W. Madison Street 60644
Henry Horner Homes, 1850 West Washington Street 60612
Harold L. Ickes Homes, 2425 South Dearborn Street 60616
Humboldt Office, 2753 West North 60647
Kenwood Office, 55 W. Cermak Rd. 60616
Lower North Office, 1010 North Milwaukee Ave., 60622
Madison Office, #1 North Kedzie Avenue 60612
Michigan Office, 70 East 21st Street, 60616
Northern Office, 4238 North Lincoln Avenue 60618
Oakland Office, 4150 South Halsted Street 60609
Park Manor Office, 751 East 63rd Street 60637
Rockwell Gardens, 2515 West Jackson Blvd. 60612
Southern Office, 8001 South Cottage Grove 60619
South Suburban Office, 183 E. 154th St., Harvey 60426
Stateway Gardens, 3653 S. Federal St., Apt. 102 60609
Robert Taylor Homes, 4844 South State Street 60609
Ida B. Wells Homes, 534 East 37th Street 60653
Western Office, 3910 West Ogden Avenue 60623
West Suburban Office, 509 Warren Ave., Maywood 60153
Wicker Park Office, 1567 Milwaukee Avenue 60622
Woodlawn Office, 6317 South Maryland Avenue 60637

CRAWFORD: 201 E. Pine Street, Robinson 62454
CUMBERLAND: 605 Adams Street, Toledo 62468
DE KALB: 913 So. 4th, DeKalb 60115
DE WITT: 308 North Monroe Street, Clinton 61727
DOUGLAS: 114 W. Houghton St., Tuscola 61953
DU PAGE: 421 North County Farm Road, Wheaton 60187
EDGAR: 150 East Court Street, Paris 61944
EDWARDS: 295 E. Walnut, Albion 62806
EFFINGHAM: 403 South 3rd Street, Effingham 62401
FAYETTE: 228 Johnson Street, Vandalia 62471
FORD: 811 South Railroad Avenue, Paxton 60957
FRANKLIN: 303 North Main Street, Benton 62812
FULTON: 601 South Main, Lewistown 61542
GALLATIN: 211 Lincoln Blvd., West, Shawneetown 62984
GREENE: 425 So. Fifth, Carrollton 62016
GRUNDY: 105 East Main Street, Room 304, Morris 60450
HAMILTON: 200 S. Locust Street, McLeansboro 62859
HANCOCK: 30 S. Washington, Carthage 62321
HARDIN: P.O. Box 307, Elizabethtown 62931
HENDERSON: Schuyler Street, Oquawka 61469
HENRY: Brackens Shopping Center-South Tenny Street
Kewanee 61443
IROQUOIS: N. Dixie Highway, Watseka 60970
JACKSON: 342 North Street, Murphysboro 62966
JASPER: 113 South Jackson, Newton 62448
JEFFERSON: 414 Main Street, Mt. Vernon 62864
JERSEY: 215 South Jefferson Street, Jerseyville 62052

JO DAVIESS: 310 North Main Street, Galena 61036
JOHNSON: McCormick Building, Vienna 62995
KANE: 361 Old Indian Trail, Aurora 60506
KANKAKEE: 285 North Schuyler Avenue, Kankakee 60901
KENDALL: 123 West Hydraulic, Yorkville 60560
KNOX: 1580 East Knox Street, Galesburg 61401
LAKE: 2410 West Washington Street, Waukegan 60085
LA SALLE: 401 West Washington Street, Ottawa 61350
LAWRENCE: P. O. Box 148, Lawrenceville 62439
LEE: 353 West Everett Street, Dixon 61021
LIVINGSTON: 215 W. Washington Street , Pontiac 61746
LOGAN: 219 South Kickapoo Street, Lincoln 62656
MC DONOUGH: 119 Rear West Carroll Street, Macomb 61455
MC HENRY: 225 West Judd Street, Woodstock 60098
MC LEAN: 603 North Center Street, Bloomington 61701
MACON: 1401 East Eldorado, Decatur, 62521
MACOUPIN: 213 North East Street, Carlinville 62626
MADISON: 200 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville 62025
MARION: 214 North Locust, Centralia 62801
MARSHALL: 626 Second Street, Henry 61537
MASON: 323 West Main Street, Havana 62644
MASSAC: 2301 Metropolis St., Metropolis 62960
MENARD: 113 West Douglas, Petersburg 62675
MERCER: 400 S.E. Eighth Avenue, Aledo 61231
MONROE: 123 West Mill, Waterloo 62298
MONTGOMERY: 210 East Fairground Avenue, Hillsboro 6204
MORGAN: 3 West Side Square, Jacksonville 62650
MOULTRIE: 10 South Worth Street, Sullivan 61951
OGLE: 200 Washington Street, Oregon 61061
PEORIA: 605-607 N.E. Jefferson Street, Peoria 61601
PERRY: 316 East Franklin Street, DuQuoin 62832
PIATT: 108 East Washington Street, Monticello 61856
PIKE: Highway 36 & 54 West, Pittsfield 62363
POPE: P.O. Box 130, Davis Building, Golconda 62938
PULASKI: 120 North Front Street, Mounds 62964
PUTNAM: 222 South McCoy Street, Granville 61326
RANDOLPH: 201 Van Zant, Chester 62233
RICHLAND: 726 West Main Street, Olney 62450
ROCK ISLAND: 3790 11th Street, Rock Island 61201

SALINE: 105 East Poplar, Harrisburg 62946
SANGAMON: 227 South Seventh Street, Springfield 62701
SCHUYLER: 213 West Washington Street, Rushville 62681
SCOTT: 128 West Cherry Street, Winchester 62694
SHELBY: 1125 West North Second, Shelbyville 62565
STARK: 104 South East Street, Toulon 61483
ST. CLAIR: 320 No. 9th Street, East St. Louis 62201
STEPHENSON: 222 W. Exchange, Freeport 61032
TAZEWELL: 2816 Court Street, Pekin 61554
UNION: 110 Lafayette Street, Anna 62906
VERMILION: 110 East Williams, Danville 61832
WABASH: 220 Market Street, Box 149, Mt. Carmel 62863
WARREN: 104 South A Street, Monmouth 61462
WASHINGTON: 717 West St. Louis Street, Nashville 62263
WAYNE: 213 South East Third Street, Fairfield 62837
WHITE: 1 April Avenue, Carmi 62821
WHITESIDE: 410 Lincolnway East, Morrison 61270
WILL: 57 West Jefferson Street, Joliet 60431
WILLIAMSON: 606 North VanBuren, Marion 62959
WINNEBAGO: 1111 North Avon Street, Rockford 61103
WOODFORD: 107A North Major Street, Eureka 61530